

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the  
Disciplinary Action of the  
Educator Certificate of  
Laura Christine Mattke  
Certificate 243396

CONSENT ORDER OF PUBLIC REPRIMAND

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on March 10, 2020. On August 28, 2019, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) sent notice via regular and certified mail, return receipt requested, to Laura Christine Mattke concerning the pending action against educator certificate 243396. After Ms. Mattke received the notice, she contacted the SCDE to request a hearing and to discuss an alternative resolution. Prior to the scheduling of a hearing in this matter, Ms. Mattke agreed to waive her right to a hearing and enter into this Consent Order of Public Reprimand. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, effective March 10, 2020.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Mattke holds a valid South Carolina professional educator certificate. She has over nine years of educator experience and has no prior record of disciplinary action with the State Board. At the time of the incident, Ms. Mattke was employed by the Charleston County School District (District) as a teacher at Matilda F. Dunston Elementary (School).

On July 2, 2019, the SCDE received notice from the District that Ms. Mattke had resigned in lieu of termination on September 18, 2018. The District alleged Ms. Mattke had reported to work under the influence of alcohol. The allegations were based on coworker observations of Ms. Mattke appearing dazed and confused. After resigning from the District, Ms. Mattke sought appropriate treatment and has provided proof of such to the SCDE.

Laura Christine Mattke

243396



Initial

2-26-2020

Date

After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, subject to the following terms: (1) a Public Reprimand shall be issued by the State Board, (2) the Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order, and (3) the Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's website and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel. After considering the evidence presented, the State Board voted to accept the Consent Order of Public Reprimand with the terms set forth above.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

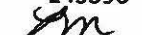
"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2017); S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2017); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (2017). The State Board finds that the evidence presented by the District would not support a conclusion that just cause exists to suspend or revoke the educator certificate of Laura Christine Mattke; however, the evidence that would be presented would support a conclusion that Ms. Mattke engaged in unprofessional conduct as result of reporting to work under the influence. The State Board further finds that just cause exists for the issuance of a Public Reprimand to Ms. Mattke.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is ordered that the State Board hereby issues a Public Reprimand to Laura Christine Mattke, certificate 243396. The Public Reprimand shall be reported to the NASDTEC Clearinghouse and all South Carolina school districts within thirty days from the date of this order with the grounds listed as "unprofessional conduct." This Consent Order of Public Reprimand shall be posted on the SCDE's web site and shall be maintained as a public record in the SCDE's Office of General Counsel.

**AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Laura Christine Mattke

243396

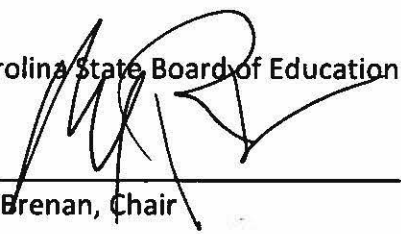


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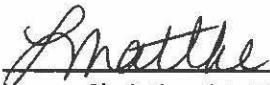
Date

South Carolina State Board of Education

  
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Michael Brenan, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina  
March 10, 2020

I, Laura Christine Mattke, S.C. Educator Certificate 243396, understand there has been an investigation concerning alleged violations of the laws and regulations governing the practice of educator certificate holders and that I have waived my right to a hearing in this matter. I understand that the terms set forth in this Consent Order of Public Reprimand are not subject to reconsideration, collateral attack or judicial review. I have read the Consent Order of Public Reprimand, consisting of three pages, and I freely and voluntarily agree to the terms set forth therein. I understand that this Order will be presented to the South Carolina State Board of Education for approval on Tuesday, March 10, 2020. I understand this Consent Order will not become effective until approved by the State Board and, if not approved, it shall not constitute an admission against interest in this proceeding or prejudice the right of the State Board to adjudicate this matter. If approved by the State Board, I give the SCDE permission to use my electronic signature in the style of "/s/ name" for required website publication.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Christine Mattke

2-26-2020  
Date